preliminary arrangements for taking up the work, which would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Recognition to KVS Employees Associations

1547. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some KVS employees associations have recently been accorded recognition under CCS (Recognition of Service Association) Rules, 1993 adopted by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) No Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan employees association has recently been accorded recongition under CCS (Recognition of Service Associations) Rules, 1993 adopted by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan as the process of verification of membership has not been completed.

Delay in Clearing Irrigation Projects due to Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

1548. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that as a result of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 the irrigation projects, especially from Central region in Gujarat, have been delayed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether in view of the prolonged delays Government propose to keep the irrigation projects out of the purview of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) No Sir. There is no delay on the part of Central Government in processing irrigation projects under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. However, delay takes place in cases of incomplete proposals from the State Governments which leads to protracted correspondence.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

News Item Captioned "CBI Unearths Rs. 500 Cr. Scam in Guage Conversion"

1549. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "CBI unearths Rs. 500 cr. scam in gauge conversion" appearing in "The Economic Times", New Delhi, dated February 27, 1996; and

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The newspaper had reported:—

(i) Irregularities in award of gauge conversion works on South Central Railway;

(ii) Withholding of permission by MOS(R) for detailed investigation involving a Joint Secretary level officer and to hand over all other cases to CBI;

(iii) Loss suffered by Railway over entire Indian Railways on gauge conversion works would exceed Rs. 500 crores.

Further, this is to state that the investigation in tenders as well as execution of works has been made by the Ministry. Certain irregularities in award of contract were noticed by the Ministry and further cases were handed over to CBI. The matter regarding permission of registration of the case is being resolved in consultation with the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Central Vigilance Commission. There is no basis for loss of Rs. 500 crores and no major irregularity has been observed on Zonal Railway other than S.C. Railway.